

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed October 6, 2005.

The Office Action first reports that claims 10 and 24 were redundant with respect to claims 2 and 16, respectively. Applicants have canceled claims 10 and 24 in order to correct these inadvertent errors. Claims 9 and 25 have been amended to provide correct dependency in view of the cancellation of claims 10 and 24.

The Office Action next reports that claims 11, 12, 25 and 26 were indefinite. With this amendment, applicants have corrected the antecedent errors contained therein.

The Office Action next reports that claims 1, 15 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albayrak et al. in view of White et al. It was concluded that Albayrak et al. disclosed the inventions recited in claims 1, 15 and 29 except for the features "each of the controls having an attribute to indicate whether the associated control is available for activation" and "as a function of which controls are activated." White was cited as evidence that these features were well known.

Applicants respectfully disagree with many conclusions reported in the Office Action. First, citing col. 3, lines 50-64, it is reported that Albayrak et al. teaches "a set of controls for defining a dialog, the controls comprising at least a question control for generating markup related to audible prompting of a question, and an answer control for generating mark-up related to a grammar for recognition". The cited passage does not support this conclusion. Col. 3, lines 50-64 state:

The present invention utilizes standard Internet protocols to communicate between client and server computers, to dynamically program portable client computers, and to manage voice dialogs for the purpose of interacting with and guiding users in various work tasks. Generic communication protocols and software are integrated into a platform that supports a multitude of facilities and applications without requiring extensive computer programming. The software combines application-specific work procedures with data provided by third-party software such as existing Enterprise Resource Planning packages. This combination of procedures and data is used to control how the client interacts with the user, for example, what kind of input to expect from the user and when to expect it.

Nowhere in this passage does this reference teach or suggest use of controls as recited in the independent claims that are used to define a dialog. Most notably, the Office Action reports that "application-specific work procedures" equate to "a set of controls" as used in the independent claims. Besides this passage, it does not appear that the reference uses "work procedures" anywhere else. However, "application specific" is used in other places in the reference. At col. 8, lines 5-8, Albayrak et al. state that an "application - specific verbal dialog" is written using a VoiceXML template, while at col. 9, lines 12-53, although a VoiceXML template includes macros, a process SHIM merely provides values for the macros. Different templates provide dialog structures for different applications.

In contrast, aspects of the present invention include a set of controls that are provided for a web server to dynamically generate client side markups that include recognition and/or audible prompting. The controls comprise elements of a dialog such as a question, answer,

confirmation, command or statement. A module generates the client side markup and forms the dialog by making use of the information carried in the controls.

Each of the controls performs a role in the dialog. For instance, a statement control is used to generate corresponding markup for the client device to present information to the user, while a question control generates markups for the client device to ask a question. An answer control generates markup for the client device so that a grammar used for recognition is associated with an input field related to a question that has been asked. If it is unclear whether or not a recognized result is correct, a confirmation control can be activated and generate markup to confirm a recognized result. A command control generates markup that allows the user to provide commands, which are other than the expected answers to a specific question, and thus, allows the user to navigate through the web server application, for example. Each of the controls includes an attribute to indicate whether the associated control is available for activation. A module, when executed such as on a client, creates the dialog to solicit and provide information as a function of which controls are activated. Each of claims 1, 15 and 29 have been amended to clarify that client-side markup is generated based on the controls. Albayrak et al. does not teach or suggest use of controls in this manner, and as such, based on this shortcoming alone, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection should also be withdrawn based on the failure of White et al. to teach the feature it is cited for. It is conceded in the Office Action in paragraph 4, page 4, that Albayrak et al. does not expressly disclose "each of the controls having an attribute to indicate

whether the associated control is available for activation" and the dialog "as a function of which controls are activated". It appears the Office Action contends that the "endpointer" as used by White et al. has a boolean attribute "for reporting (indicating) the outcome of user's utterance activation according to the related dialog steps or events (including controls) (col. 20, lines 14-64), which is broadly interpreted as the claimed a dialog as "function of which controls are activated".

At col. White et al. states "[e]ach of the endpointers 26 and 27 is a component which performs the task of endpointing, which may be defined as detecting a period of speech delimited by periods of non-speech before and after the speech. Endpointing is well understood in the art of speech recognition. Endpointing is performed based on endpointing parameters, which constrain the lengths of the periods of speech and silence and the length of the utterance as a whole." Moreover though, "endpointing" as used by White et al. is not an "attribute to indicate whether the associated control is available for activation", nor is it useful in generating or using markup based on the dialog as recited in all of the independent claims. Rather, White et al. merely uses endpointing for directing responses by the user. (See col. 4, lines 5-15, and in particular "Thus, separate sets of endpointing parameters may be used, one for purposes of hotword identification and the other for general speech recognition.") Speech that pertains to "hotwords" is sent to a voicebrowser, while the remaining speech is sent to a recognizer for recognition. Although prompts may be played in response to what was recognized, this is hardly equivalent to controls that are used to define a dialog or have an attribute to indicate whether the

associated control is available for activation, as recited by the claims.

In view of the foregoing where it has been shown that both Albayrak et al. and White et al. do not teach or suggest the inventions recited in independent claims 1, 15 and 29, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims. Dependent claims 2-9, 11-14, 16-23, 25-28 and 30-33, each of which depend directly or indirectly from one of claims 1, 15 and 29 and were all rejected based, in part, on Albayrak et al. and White et al., are also believed separately patentable in view that neither Albayrak et al. and White et al. are relevant. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is also respectfully requested.

An extension of time to respond to the Office Action is hereby requested. A charge authorization for the extension of time fee is included herewith.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 

Steven M. Koehler, Reg. No. 36,188
Suite 1400 - International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612)334-3222 Fax: (612)334-3312

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